(1) One DC-8-63F aircraft for a period of 2½ years.

(2) One DC-8-73F aircraft for a period of two years with the option to extend the contract for a further period of one year on the same terms and conditions. The agreement for the DC-8-73F had a provision for the possible substitution of the same with a Boeing 747 Freighter. Accordingly, the Boeing 747 Freighter aircraft has been substituted in place of the DC-8-73F aircraft with effect from April 6, 1986.

Air India has also been leasing IL-76 capacity from Aeroflot for its freighter operations since April 1982.

As regards the replacement of Boeing 747 Kanishka aircraft which was lost in an accident in June 1985, the Air India Board has recently approved the investment proposal for acquisition of a Boeing 747 SP aircraft. As no aircraft of this category, out of the offers received, has yet been selected, the question of executing a purchase agreement for this purpose has not arisen.

(c) and (d) It was not necessary for the Management to obtain the approval of the Board of Directors of Air India for the matter relating to the finalisation of the agreement for wet leasing of the freighter aircraft, as this was within the competence of the Management. The approval of the Government was, however, obtained by the Management before executing the agreement.

(e) The earlier contract for the wet lease of freighter aircraft which was finalised with National Airlines expired in March, 1985. This arrangement with National Airlines was, however, extended for a further period of three months and as such there was no loss of revenue on this account.

Famine of X-ray films in NDMC hospitals

1267. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 22nd April, 1986 with the caption 'NDMC hospitals facing famine of X-ray films';

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the reasons for the shortage of X-ray films in NDMC hospitals;

(d) the approximate number of patient daliy affected by this shortage;

(e) the name of the film which supplies X-ray films to NDMC hospitals; and

(f) what are the reasons for not supplying the X-ray films to the NDMC hospitals and what action has been taken against the persons responsible for the lapse?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Government is aware of the news item.

(b) to (d) NDMC have informed that there was no shortage of X-ray films in the NDMC Hospital.

(e) 1. Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

2. Agfa-Gevaret India Ltd

(f) Does not arise in view of answer to (b), (c) and (d) above.

Quantum of monetary incentive for sterilisation in Chandigarh

1268. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of monetary incentive awarded to a person undergoing sterilisation;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently this amount has been substantialy reduced in Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor, and

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is a decline in the number of people opting for sterilisation?